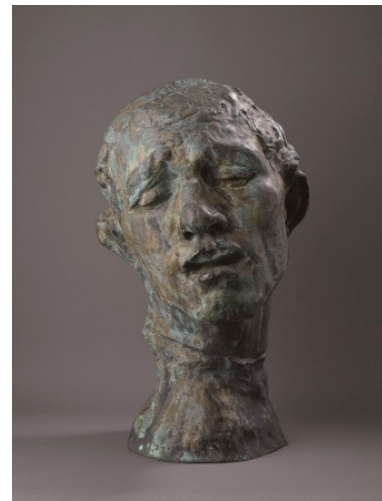




PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rodin's *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant* fetched HK\$ 64,900,000 at Tiancheng International's Inaugural Auction



Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant*, bronze,
Inscribed with the signature *Auguste Rodin* and with the foundry mark *Alexis RUDIER. Fondateur. PARIS*
Height: 32 ¼ inches 82 cm

Hong Kong, 28 November 2011 - Hong Kong - Tiancheng International Auctioneer Limited held its inaugural auction in Hong Kong today. The star lot of the sale, ***Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant*** by Auguste Rodin, fetched HK\$ 64,900,000 (US\$8,327,254). The bronze head sculpture in colossal form was sold to an Asian private collector over the phone after intense bidding, the sold price is over three times of the pre-sale low estimate of 20 million Hong Kong dollars.



“We are happy with the sale result today,” said Ingrid Lam, CEO of Tiancheng International. “It is our honour to present this museum quality Western work of art to Asian collectors at our inaugural auction. Quality art works with such historical significance, provenance and condition are highly sought-after by collectors. This large head of Pierre de Wissant is an outstanding example of Rodin’s work which captures the fear, pathos and courage of Pierre de Wissant in an expressive way.”

Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant is an enlarged cast of the head of one of the figures from Rodin’s famous *Monument to the Burghers of Calais*, one of the greatest works of public art of the nineteenth century. The latter, signifying patriotism and heroism, depicts six burghers from Calais, a town in the north of France, who volunteered to sacrifice their lives to save their homeland during England’s invasion in 1347. Pierre de Wissant was one of the burghers and Rodin’s rendition of him was considered as the most moving and popular.

Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant was recognized as a great piece of artwork when it was first exhibited in 1909 in Berlin. The 82 cm tall bronze head carries communicative emotion that vividly expresses the fear and courage of Pierre de Wissant when facing death. It has been exhibited in open air for years, and has acquired rich and variegated natural patinas.

This *Monumental Head of Pierre de Wissant* is produced by Rodin’s most preferred maker – the Alexis Rudier foundry. The piece has been in the Rudier family’s private collection for decades. It is a rare work to be available in the market. The last time it was offered for auction was in 1979.



天成國際拍賣有限公司
Tiancheng International Auctioneer Limited

ABOUT TIANCHENG INTERNATIONAL

Founded in January 2011, Tiancheng International is a newly established auction house led by a visionary management group and an illustrious team of experts with extensive experience in the international auction business. With solid understanding of the cultural requirements of clients and broad vision to the art world, the team aims to explore new frontiers in the Asian auction market. With its head office in Hong Kong, Tiancheng International also has branch offices in Shanghai and Taipei.